

## What Does the Public Health Department Do?

The Public Health Department is responsible for improving the health and well-being of the community by:

- ◆ *Preventing* - disease and injury
- ◆ *Promoting* - healthy lifestyles
- ◆ *Protecting* - the public from health threats

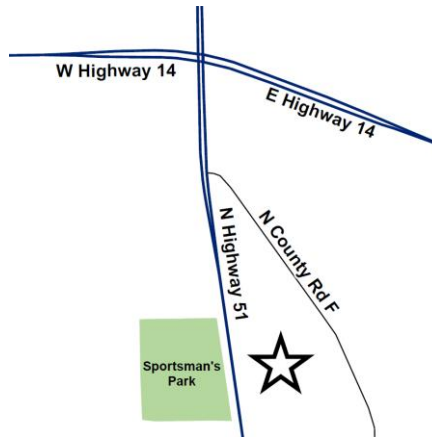


**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

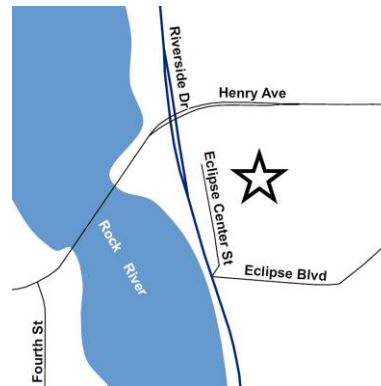
**Level III designated agency**  
The highest awarded in Wisconsin

**Serving:**

Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton, Evansville,  
Orfordville, Footville, Janesville, Milton &  
Rural Townships of Rock County



**North Office**  
3328 N US HWY 51  
Janesville, WI 53545  
(608) 757-5440



**South Office**  
61 Eclipse Center St.  
Beloit, WI 53511  
(608) 364-2010



[www.co.rock.wi.us/health](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/health)  
[RCHealthDept@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:RCHealthDept@co.rock.wi.us)

# Have You Tested Your Well This Year?

**1 in 6 Rock County wells tested for bacteria are unsafe**

**1 in 3 Rock County wells tested for nitrates are unsafe**



**Preventing Illness and  
Enhancing Health by  
Providing Quality Services**

## What Should You Test For?

The Public Health Department recommends testing for coliform bacteria and nitrates annually. You should also test your well any time you notice a change in taste or odor in your water.

## Health Effects of Contaminated Water

- ◆ Bacteria can cause flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, fever, and diarrhea
- ◆ High nitrate levels can cause “blue baby syndrome”, an oxygen deficiency in the blood
- ◆ Insects such as earwigs can carry bacteria, viruses and pesticides into your well

## How to Test Your Well

Test kits are available at our North Office in Janesville and our South Office in Beloit. Directions are located on the back of this pamphlet.

Bacteria & Nitrate tests costs **\$24.00** each  
(Prices subject to change)

## Steps You Can Take To Protect Your Drinking Water Supply

Install a vermin proof well cap. This will keep out bacteria laden insects; our most common problem.

Locate pollution sources, such as storage tanks, septic systems, feed lots, etc., away from your well.

If you have a well pit, consider abandoning it and installing a pitless adapter.

If you are constructing a new well, extend your casing as deep into the aquifer as practical to avoid potential contaminants.

## More Information

For more information please call (608) 757-5440 or visit our North or South Office

Rock County Public Health Departments' Web Page:  
<http://www.co.rock.wi.us/health>

Wisconsin DNR's Drinking Water and Ground Water Website:  
[http://www.wi.gov/topic/drinking\\_water](http://www.wi.gov/topic/drinking_water)

EPA's Private Well Information Website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/privatewells/index2.html>

EPA's Ground Water and Drinking Water Page:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/faq/faq.html>

CDC's Private Well Water Page:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells>

## About the Rock County Public Health Department Water Testing Lab

Certified by WDATCP for EPA Safe Drinking Water Analysis of Bacteria

Certified by WDNR for EPA Safe Drinking Water Analysis of Nitrates

## OTHER SERVICES

### Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Provides lead poisoning prevention education & lead hazard assessments

- ◆ Investigations of elevated blood lead levels in children
- ◆ Assistance in finding funds for lead hazard abatement
- ◆ **FREE environmental assessments for homes with children 5 & under**

### Radon Program

- ◆ Radon education
- ◆ Abatement consultation

**TESTS KITS ARE AVAILABLE**

For a complete list of services please go to:

<http://www.co.rock.wi.us/health>